

U.S. Department
of Transportation

United States
Coast Guard



Load Line Technical Manual

American Bureau of Shipping

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16. Abstract This manual describes the interpretations of the International Convention on Load Lines, 1966 as applied in regulation and policy by the American Bureau of Shipping and the United States Coast Guard to U. S. flag vessels on foreign voyages and foreign flag vessels under U.S. jurisdiction. The definitions and application statements in this manual apply only to vessels on foreign voyages by sea. Domestic Voyages are not considered.					
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Preface to the electronic version

In 1990, the U.S. Coast Guard commissioned the American Bureau of Shipping (ABS) to prepare a report that integrated U.S. load line regulations & policies, ABS and IACS interpretations, IMO circulars, and the International Convention on Load Lines (ICLL) into a single reference document.

This “*Load Line Technical Manual*” is the result of that effort. It sets forth the technical procedures for evaluating, calculating and assigning ICLL load lines, using USCG and ABS policies where the Convention leaves certain requirements “to the satisfaction of the Administration” or is open to interpretation. This manual applies to U.S. vessels seeking an international ICLL assignment or a domestic U.S. load line assignment for unrestricted voyages by sea; it does not cover U.S. load line regulations for other types of domestic voyages (such as coastwise or Great Lakes).

This electronic version of the manual has been divided into five *Adobe .pdf* files:

- LL Tech Manual-ToC.pdf* Table of Contents
- LL Tech Manual-Ch1.pdf* Chapter I, General Items
- LL Tech Manual-Ch2.pdf* Chapter II, Load Line Calculation
- LL Tech Manual-Ch3.pdf* Chapter III, Cond of Assignment-Minimum Freebrd
- LL Tech Manual-Ch4.pdf* Chapter IV, Cond of Assignment-Increased Freebrd

This Technical Manual was originally prepared in 1990; therefore, it only incorporates material up to that time. Since then, there has been further evolution of load line policies, additional IACS interpretations, new IMO Circulars, etc. The ICLL itself has been amended by the 1988 Protocol (which entered into force on February 3, 2000) as well as subsequent amendments that were adopted in 2003 (and will enter into force on 1 January 2005). There are no immediate plans to incorporate these into this manual.

Date of this Preface: 6 Nov 2003

Load Line Technical Manual

Each chapter includes a Preface, detailed Table of Contents; List of Figures; list of Abbreviations and Variables; an explanation of the Reference System; and list of Reference Materials

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